

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XGIT

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE
(ECPC)

REF: (A) ROME 0056, (B) BERLIN 5094

1. AT JANUARY 20 NATO POLADS MEETING, ITALIAN REP (FERRETTI)
REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES INCLUDING
ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS, DECEMBER AND JANUARY
ECPC PREPARATORY MEETINGS IN BERLIN MADE CONSIDERABLE
PROGRESS. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN INFORMATION, THE TWO MAIN
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PROBLEMS DIVIDING SOVIETS FROM THE MORE AUTONOMY-MINDED
CPS HAD BEEN: (A) DEGREE OF TACTICAL FREEDOM FOR WESTERN
CPS IN ALLIANCES WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND OTHER PARTIES,
(B) REFERENCES IN ECPC FINAL DOCUMENT TO US AND NATO.

ITALIANS UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIETS HAD EARLIER INSISTED ON A REFERENCE TO US HEGEMONISTIC AIMS IN WESTERN EUROPE AND TO THREAT TO PEACE REPRESENTED BY NATO. ITALIAN CP REPORT-EDLY OPPOSED SUCH REFERENCES.

2. AS ALREADY REPORTED IN REF A, ITALIAN SOURCES BELIEVE THAT MID-DECEMBER MEETING IN ROME BETWEEN CPSU OFFICIAL ZAGLADIN AND PCI, AT WHICH SOVIETS SOFTENED THEIR POSITION, HAD BROKEN IMPASSE OVER FINAL DOCUMENT.

3. ITALIANS SPECULATE THAT WHEN SOVIETS FINALLY ABANDONED HOPE OF HOLDING ECPC PRIOR TO CPSU CONGRESS, MOSCOW ALSO DECIDED IT COULD ACCEPT A WEAKER ECPC FINAL DOCUMENT THAN IT HAD ORIGINALLY DESIRED. THE SOVIETS WILL TRY, ITALIANS BELIEVE, TO ANNOUNCE THE DATES FOR THE ECPC DURING CPSU CONGRESS.

4. FRENCH (RENOUARD) AND FRG (CITRON) REPS SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR INFORMATION TO THAT GIVEN BY ITALIAN REP, AND FRG REP WONDERED ABOUT POSSIBLE PCI MOTIVES FOR KEEPING WESTERN EMBASSIES IN ROME INFORMED OF ECPC PREPARATIONS. FERRETTI REPLIED THAT PCI IS DOING ITS BEST TO PROJECT IMAGE OF ITSELF AS A DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THAT CONTACTS WITH WESTERN EMBASSIES WERE PART OF THIS EFFORT. WHILE PRESENT PCI LEADERSHIP UNDOUBTEDLY ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE POPULARITY IN ITALY, FERRETTI CONTINUED, THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT PCI'S RELATIVELY LIBERAL ORIENTATION WOULD CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE.

5. BELGIAN REP (BOUCKAERT) SUGGESTED THAT POLADS EXAMINE THE CONSEQUENCES OF PARTICIPATION BY COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WESTERN GOVERNMENTS. FRG REP THOUGHT POLADS MIGHT BEGIN WORK ON A SHORT PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT FOLLOWING THE SOVIET 25TH PARTY CONGRESS. ONLY REACTION WAS FROM FRENCH REP, WHO SAID SHE WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS ON THE FRG SUGGESTION. STREATOR

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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